Fund of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist Tarvel Circuit in U.P. and Bihar. In January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra Govt. further entered into a Loan Agreement with OECF. The OECF would extend financial assistance to the tune of 9.244 billion Japanese Yen.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2.00 crores has been earmarked during the year 1994-95 for development of places of Buddhist interest.

(d) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa for development of Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and other places of Buddhist tourist interest in Orissa.

Tie-Ups with Foreign Airlines to Share Traffic

1412. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans of Government to modernize the Air India fleet and by when;

(b) whether there is any proposal to enter into any tie-ups with some of the foreign airlines to share traffic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Air India has recently inducted four new generation B 747-400 aircraft in its fleet. Air India proposes to acquire two 400 seater aircraft in 1996 and 1997. Modernisation of fleet is an on-going programme and investment decisions will be taken after weighing various pros & cons.

(b) and (c) Air India has joint venture agreements with Zambian Airways, Air Mauritius, Malaysian Airlines and Gulf Air with a profit sharing formula.

Air India has also concluded Block seat arrangements with Ethiopian airlines and Finnair under which Air India is provided certain number of seats either free of cost or at reduced rates.

Air India is also negotiating similar block seat arrangements with Air Malta and Air Canada.

Foreign Visits Made by Minister and Officials

1413 SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Minister and officials in the Ministry visited foreign countries (with names of the countries) during 1995 and 1994 till date to promote tourism in the country;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on each of the tour undertaken; and